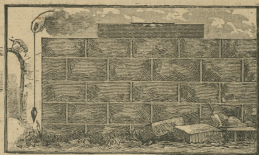
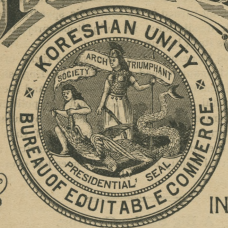


THE PLOWSHARE AND PRUNING HOOK

INDICATOR OF COMMERCIAL EQUATION.



Vol. 1. No. 8.

San Francisco, Cal., July, 11. 1891.

Five Cents a Copy.

The Plowshare and Pruning Hook.
1891.

ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY BY
THE BUREAU OF EQUITABLE COMMERCE.
212 & 214 Front Street, - San Francisco, Cal.

KORESH, - - - - - Founder and Director
C. J. MACLAUGHLIN, - - - - - Editor

Address all communications to the Editor.

One Year in Advance, - - - - - 50 cts.
One Copy, - - - - - 5 "

Sample Copy on Application.

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LABOR TO SECURE US SUBSCRIBERS.

It remains for the Bureau of Equitable Commerce to demonstrate that "labor" is capital, by the practicable application of industry in the storage of productions for distributive use. The mission of the Bureau does not cease with the establishment of a provision department on the basis of public supply, at cheap rates. It scarcely begins there. Its purpose is to inaugurate a great industrial and economic system by which the world living from hand to mouth may glory in an abundance. This can and will be effected through the general substitution of the commonwealth for that of competition, now in vogue to the curse of nineteen twentieths of the mass of mankind.

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The Boot On The Other Foot.

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NATURALIZATION.

Alien-born citizens of this democracy are, most of them, unfit to be granted the right of suffrage. It is the laxity of our regulations regarding the naturalization of our citizens that will fatally compromise this government. And it is useless to try to amend matters now for the mischief is done; the horse has already escaped from the barn; the sluice gate has been opened and the mud has poured in. The coming revolution which will shake this country from centre to circumference will bring to the surface the vast horde of the depraved, ignorant and dissolute, whom our enterprising steamship companies and manufacturers have been the means of bringing to our shores, and the smart politician, fearful of losing a vote, has quietly stood by and watched this vast procession of foreign belligerents land without scarcely raising a word of protest in our legislative halls. Impregnated with Jesuitism these immigrants can be depended upon to consummate the work of chaos fomented by capital and labor.

If wisdom had been exercised in the enactment of our laws regarding the naturalization of citizens this large and ever increasing class of our population would have had no voice in the affairs of government and never could have been manipulated by designing men. Most of these people can neither read nor write. They not only do not understand our language but have no more than a meagre knowledge of their own, the grade of their intelligence being much below par. To place the ballot in the hands of such people, after a few years stay with us is a more foolish act than if we were to give the same to our ten year old children; for the latter have, proportionately, more intelligence and a clearer concept of the laws regulating society than these pestiferous alien hordes. Yet we would not entertain the idea of granting our boys the right to vote.

These alien-born voters are driven in herds to the polls, and, without knowing for whom they are voting or the measure under public consideration, by the proffer of a cigar or a glass of whisky, they immolate one of the mainsprings of human sovereignty at the altar of ignorance and degradation. Monopoly lifts its hoary head, not by the sanction of the intelligent native-born or the apt alien-born citizens of this republic, but by the grace of the ignorant, groveling rabble, who infest us and who are bought like sheep by

the political auctioneer whose demagogic doings have led a nation, which has waded through rivers of blood for liberty, to the verge of an awful precipice from whence it must be hurled into the revolutionary gorge below. Monopoly and demagoguery are responsible for the myriads of branches of foreign illiteracy that have been engrafted upon the American tree and therefore they with their imported dupes must bite the dust when the monsoon of catastrophe sweeps over a land made desolate by wrong. Capitalistic greed and political trickery by importing contract labor, cast an arrow at the honest, industrious citizens of this Commonwealth, which, like a boomerang, having turned in its course, is speeding back, will soon strike with deadly force its iniquitous projectors, and be shattered to pieces itself by the collision.

No one should be permitted to exercise the right of franchise in this country who cannot read and write the English language with facility and demonstrate his understanding and acceptance of fundamental societal laws as dictated, not by politicians with their specious interpretation of the same, nor yet by subsidized expounders of jurisprudence, but by the behests of that manhood evolved through the union of rationalism, integrity, and godliness, which supernal trinity of elemental forces has ever propelled the world.

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THE MIDDLE MAN.

The middle man is quite an institution. He is the go-between, the diplomat, the great aqueduct of human effort, indeed the fence straddler. He keeps his own counsel and pockets part of the product of human plans. His motto is: "Addition, division and silence". Wherever there is any money gathered, there you will see the middle man and he usually manages to keep out of work, too. He is a sort of ornament to society; always well dressed, affable, mysterious, scheming. What a fellow is the middle man. He is in every quarrel but never gets hurt because he gets some one else to do the punching. He is the colossal shirk and shark of the nineteenth century. His eyes and ears are everywhere and he is as slick and irrepressible as the California flea. What he doesn't know "ain't worth knowing". Let us examine him as he appears in the diversified walks of life.

In the antics of minstrelsy he first catches our eye. Here he is a portly, dignified, suave gentleman of (temporary) color. He sort of fans the genius on his right and left ultimates and is well paid for it, too, though the great value of his services is not apparent; still, in this, as in every other channel in which he figures, he has the faculty of impressing the management and public of his superlative importance. It must have struck the observing frequenter of burnt cork spectacles, though, that a well manipulated automaton might fill the bill equally as well as this high salaried poser and mediocre. At the prize fight the middle man gets there. While he lets some one else do the pummeling, which is certainly the drawing attraction at such beastly exhibitions, he deftly arranges matters and gets a big slice of the prize money for his cleverness without carrying away from the grounds a broken nose, broken ribs, blackened eyes or without being carried away lifeless, as are often the men whom he urges on to a participation in such bouts. In love affairs this lingo of modern society materializes. Ingratiating himself into the favor and confidence of contracting parties in wedlock, he or she, as the case may be, usually manages, with that kindness which is so inherent in this personage, the details of the wedding—the trousseau, the wedding trip, the residence for the newly wedded pair, the furniture and house decorations. And you may be sure that the tradesmen, thus patronized by this individual, will usually either render a per-

centage or otherwise reimburse our middle friend for a valuable expenditure of skill. Not infrequently this irrepressible admixture of character, in love affairs, where he has been called in for his indispensable counsel, has quickly settled the matter by carrying off the bride himself. He is a very clever chap, is the middle man.

As we have said he is everywhere; in every branch of industry. But where he does his slickest work is in the legitimate lines of business; here he reaps a harvest. On the stock or wheat exchange he looms up as the consummate rascal and depredator. If any one gets "squeezed" you may be sure it will be the customer; seldom the middle man. In this phase of his activity he is more slippery than the eel. His mission is to shear, not to be shorn. In the real estate business he reaps a handsome profit by vibrating between the buyer and seller. He makes the liveliest pendulum that the world has ever seen, and is such a swinging liar that he often makes more out of a bargain than do either of the contracting parties. He is a cold calculator. He will insure your life and beat the insurance company, or beat you; it makes no difference to him so long as he gets the money. There isn't a character in the world who has such an eye to business as the middle man. In the produce business if he can't get a fair profit on consigned goods, why, without the least hesitancy, he will dump them into the Bay, advise the consignor that the market is glutted and the goods have spoiled, and laugh when told that that produce would have fed many poor families. What does he care for poor families?

Now, what are we going to do with this fellow; this blood-sucker; this vampire; this rogue? He is simply imposing on ignorance and good nature. He isn't necessary to the community. He never produced anything in his life but is like the english sparrow imported into this country which spends its time in fighting with its kind and picking the seed sown for the harvest. Let us get rid of the pest! Discard him! Snub him! Kick him out! Starve him a while, if that were possible! But get rid of him anyhow, for he clogs the wheels of commerce which must be adjusted upon an equitable basis by bringing the producer and consumer face to face. It is the mission of the Bureau of Equitable Commerce to wipe out this superfluity from the marts of trade and with your help we will do it. The middle man is a "back number;" his scalp is due.

THE GREAT DESTROYER.

When Gladstone declared before the House of Commons that drink had inflicted on the world greater evils than war, pestilence and famine combined, (says *The Voice*) he was indulging in a mere rhetorical exaggeration? When the Supreme Court of the United States solemnly declared in its official decision in the case of California vs. Christiansen (1890) that a greater amount of crime and misery is shown by the statistics of every State to be attributable to drink "than to any other source," was it, for the moment, indulging in a thoughtless statement for the purpose of pleasing the "temperance people?" Well, perhaps so. Gladstone may have been out of his head and the Supreme Court may have been hypnotized. Let us make a little excursion into mathematics to see. In 1888 "The British Medical Journal" published the result of an inquiry made by the British Medical Association (the principal association of the kind in England, or, perhaps in the world). The inquiry was conducted during a period of nineteen months (May 9, 1885, to Dec. 11, 1886), and related to the effects of drink on mortality. Each of the doctors contributing to the inquiry (178 in all, in different sections of Great Britain) took his death-certificate book and from the counterfoils of three years gave, in the case of each death of a male over 25 years of age, the immediate cause of death, the age at death, and the drink-habits of the man who died. From the data supplied to this inquiry, has been carefully reckoned (see "Prohibition, the Principle, the Policy, the Party," by Wheeler Appendix, Note C.) the number (120,000) of intemperate persons dying every year in England and Wales, from all causes, and, what is more important, the number of these who are killed by drink. This latter number is a little over 30,000. It does not in-

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The middle man is quite an institution. He is the go-between, the diplomat, the great aqueduct of human effort, indeed the fence straddler. He keeps his own counsel and pockets part of the product of human plans. His motto is: "Addition, division and silence". Wherever there is any money gathered, there you will see the middle man and he usually manages to keep out of work, too. He is a sort of ornament to society; always well dressed, affable, mysterious, scheming. What a fellow is the middle man. He is in every quarrel but never gets hurt because he gets some one else to do the punching. He is the colossal shirk and shark of the nineteenth century. His eyes and ears are everywhere and he is as slick and irrepressible as the California flea. What he don't know 'ain't worth knowing'. Let us examine him as he appears in the diversified walks of life.

In the antics of minstrelsy he first catches our eye. Here he is a portly, dignified, suave gentleman of (temporary) color. He sort of fans the genius on his right and left ultimates and is well paid for it, too, though the great value of his services is not apparent; still, in this, as in every other channel in which he figures, he has the faculty of impressing the management and public of his superlative importance. It must have struck the observing frequent of burnt cork spectacles, though, that a well manipulated automaton might fill the bill equally as well as this high salaried poser and mediocre. At the prize fight the middle man gets there. While he lets some one else do the pummeling, which is certainly the drawing attraction at such beastly exhibitions, he deftly arranges matters and gets a big slice of the prize money for his cleverness without carrying away from the grounds a broken nose, broken ribs, blackened eyes or without being carried away lifeless, as are often the men who he urges on to a participation in such bouts. In love affairs this lingo of modern society materializes. Ingratiating himself into the favor and confidence of contracting parties in wedlock, he or she, as the case may be, usually manages, with that kindness which is so inherent in this personage, the details of the wedding—the trousseau, the wedding trip, the residence for the newly wedded pair, the furniture and house decorations. And you may be sure that the tradesmen, thus patronized by this individual, will usually either render a per-

centage or otherwise reimburse our middle friend for a valuable expenditure of skill. Not infrequently this irrepressible admixture of character, in love affairs, where he has been called in for his indispensable counsel, has quickly settled the matter by carrying off the bride himself. He is a very clever chap, is the middle man.

As we have said he is everywhere; in every branch of industry. But where he does his slickest work is in the legitimate lines of business; here he reaps a harvest. On the stock or wheat exchange he looms up as the consummate rascal and depredator. If any one gets "squeezed" you may be sure it will be the customer; seldom the middle man. In this phase of his activity he is more slippery than the eel. His mission is to shear, not to be shorn. In the real estate business he reaps a handsome profit by vibrating between the buyer and seller. He makes the liveliest pendulum that the world has ever seen, and is such a swingeing liar that he often makes more out of a bargain than do either of the contracting parties. He is a cold calculator. He will insure your life and beat the insurance company, or beat you; it makes no difference to him so long as he gets the money. There isn't a character in the world who has such an eye to business as the middle man. In the produce business if he can't get a fair profit on consigned goods, why, without the least hesitancy, he will dump them into the Bay, advise the consignor that the market is glutted and the goods have spoiled, and laugh when told that that produce would have fed many poor families. What does he care for poor families?

Now, what are we going to do with this fellow; this blood-sucker; this vampire; this rogue? He is simply imposing on ignorance and good nature. He isn't necessary to the community. He never produced anything in his life but is like the english sparrow imported into this country which spends its time in fighting with its kind and picking the seed sown for the harvest. Let us get rid of the pest! Discard him! Snub him! Kick him out! Starve him a while, if that were possible! But get rid of him anyhow, for he clogs the wheels of commerce which must be adjusted upon an equitable basis by bringing the producer and consumer face to face. It is the mission of the Bureau of Equitable Commerce to wipe out this superfluity from the marts of trade and with your help we will do it. The middle man is a "back number;" his scalp is due.

THE GREAT DESTROYER.

When Gladstone declared before the House of Commons that drink had inflicted on the world greater evils than war, pestilence and famine combined, (says *The Voice*) he was indulging in a mere rhetorical exaggeration? When the Supreme Court of the United States solemnly declared in its official decision in the case of California vs. Christiansen (1890) that a greater amount of crime and misery is shown by the statistics of every State to be attributable to drink "than to any other source," was it, for the moment, indulging in a thoughtless statement for the purpose of pleasing the "temperance people?" Well, perhaps so. Gladstone may have been out of his head and the Supreme Court may have been hypnotized. Let us make a little excursion into mathematics to see. In 1888 "The British Medical Journal" published the result of an inquiry made by the British Medical Association (the principal association of the kind in England, or, perhaps in the world). The inquiry was conducted during a period of nineteen months (May 9, 1885, to Dec. 11, 1886), and related to the effects of drink on mortality. Each of the doctors contributing to the inquiry (178 in all, in different sections of Great Britain) took his death-certificate book and from the counterfoils of three years gave, in the case of each death of a male over 25 years of age, the immediate cause of death, the age at death, and the drink-habits of the man who died. From the data supplied to this inquiry, has been carefully reckoned (see "Prohibition, the Principle, the Policy, the Party," by Wheeler Appendix, Note C.) the number (120,000) of intemperate persons dying every year in England and Wales, from all causes, and, what is more important, the number of these who are killed by drink. This latter number is a little over 30,000. It does not in-

clude those (infants and others) dying as a result of crime or negligence on the part of drinkers, or as a result of inherited defects; but simply those who kill themselves with alcohol. The number is about the same for the United States, estimating on the basis of the ratio of absolute alcohol consumed in the two countries. Thirty thousand killed each year in the United States, 30,000 more in England. Let us go further. In the report of the Swiss Federal Council, in 1885, after a special and exhaustive investigation, it appears that the amount of alcohol consumed in the countries of Canada, Norway, Sweden, United States, Great Britain and Ireland, Austro-Hungary, France, Russia, German Zollverein, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Denmark, is 676,724,985 gallons or about six times as much as in England and the United States alone. The same amount of absolute alcohol can be safely reckoned as causing an equal amount of mortality, on an average, in all these countries. Six times 60,000 equals 360,000—the number of deaths each year caused in these countries by drink. Three hundred and Sixty thousand a year! In an average generation of 33 years the number is nearly twelve millions (11,880,000). In the life-time of a man of 70 years, the aggregate death roll will reach the amazing figure of over twenty-five millions (25,200,000). Remember, in looking at these stupendous figures, that they represent, not the number of drinkers who have died, but the number who were killed by drink. Remember, the estimate is based on reliable data furnished by one of the best scientific associations on the face of the earth. Remember that in these figures is not included the large, but undetermined number of those dying as the result of inherited defects due to drink, or the result of crime and negligence on the part of drunken men and women. Remember that the estimate above is lower by one-half than the usual estimates given of all persons slain by drink. And remember that the above countries do not comprise by any means, all those in which the devastation of drink is spread. Among those not included are Australia, South America, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Oriental countries. How old are you? The young man of 20 can truthfully say that in his lifetime drink has slain, in the countries named, over seven millions. The man of 30 can say that it has slain over eleven millions. The man of 40 can say over fourteen and one-half millions; the man of 50, over eighteen millions; the man of 60, over twenty-one and one-half millions; the man of 70 over twenty-five millions. These are figures for which reliable data are in hand. If we could obtain reliable data for an estimate of the millions not included in the above reckoning, we should stand, if possible, still more aghast before the known ravages of this Gigantic Destroyer. But even then the story would not be half told. For every man who goes to his grave through drink, how many are there whose lives are shadowed by the disgrace and sorrow? "No man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself." These are the millions who are slain; how many are the millions who mourn! And to think that, from first to last, this amazing curse is created by man and can be removed by man—all of it, every vestige of it.

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"The Jew must be got rid of at any price—as one would get rid of microbes," cries Prince Metchersky. "He must be shown," said Mr. Skalkofsky, "that his haleyden days in Russia have gone by." Therefore the penal laws against him are enforced, say they; and these laws the Jew can easily avoid by leaving the country. This sounds very reasonable and plausible; but let the reader (writes the Countess of Desart in *The Nineteenth Century*) take a map of Russia and look out on it the southwest provinces and the fifteen governments that comprise the "Pale of Settlement." Perhaps it may astonish him to find that its boundaries do not at any one point "march" with the confines of the empire, but are well inland—one of the laws being that no Jew may settle within a certain number of miles of the frontier. Therefore, the first step the Russian Government takes for enabling the Jew to rid the country of his presence is to send him well inland! Now it also happens that not only is emigration strictly forbidden in Russia, but that no one may leave the country, even for a short time, from the Grand Dukes down-

wards, without special permission from the Government. Of course this means a passport and the spending of money. Are any facilities given to the Jews to obtain their passports? Far from it. To any one of them the cost is much greater than to any Christian; and when the document is obtained, there are still all the frontier officials to be met and propitiated—no easy task. What is the result? The rich Jew buys his passport from the minister in Petersburg, paves his way with gold, and settles in other countries where he is looked upon as a fellow-creature, and his tenets are not inquired into. The "middle-class" Jew spends his savings in wandering off to freer regions; the small trader and publican realizes what he can as best he can, and comes penniless to England, ignorant of the language, ignorant of any handicraft, injured to all sorts of misery and hardship, to swell the already overgrown number of the unskilled unemployed: having spent his little all in getting out of the country where he was born and could earn a competency, if a modest one. The only Jews who remain in Russia are the very poor, the weak and helpless in mind or body. These the Russian Government, which is so anxious to get rid of the Jews, compels to stay; and not only compels to stay, but herds together forcibly in such numbers that not only do they prevent each other from earning what they earned before, but they are bound by every law that modern hygiene has discovered, to generate every kind of loathsome and contagious disease. And the rest of the civilized world is to look on at this, and not to raise a word of protest, but to shrug its shoulders and echo the parrot-cry of the writer I have before quoted:—"The Russian Jew is like no other Jew." If the native of the gloomiest slum of Bethnal Green were pointed out to the world as the type of John Bull, would any one accept it? Let "O. K." build a high wall round a certain portion of Whitechapel; let her be enabled to enforce that no Jew in the home counties shall be allowed to reside anywhere but within that wall; that no Jew shall follow any trade or any profession requiring a legal apprenticeship that only a percentage of the children shall be taught in the schools, the rest depending on any training their tolling parents can find time to give them, and I will undertake in twenty years' time to turn out from within that limit as perfect a specimen of the Russian Jew as can be found at the present day in the Pale of Settlement. Let the Russian authorities say to the Jews, "We do not want you; we will give you so much time in which to realize your assets, and shake the dust of our country off your feet: here are your passports; whoever remains beyond the stipulated period, or ever returns, does so at his peril." Provided the given time be ample, though people may differ as to the wisdom of the step, no one will be able to blame the Government that chooses to think it will prosper more without a certain fragment of its population, or find fault with it for acting up to its lights. But as long as a Government heaps cruelty and outrage on a helpless crowd of people, and only lets them go in such guise as to force other nations either in genuine self-defense to shut them out, or else allow them to flood their market—as they have done those of England—with masses of unskilled labor and absolute poverty which reduce the rate of wages and increase the misery of the poor native population, it becomes not only the right but the duty of those other nations to lift up their voices in indignant protest; to try and shame authorities that call themselves civilized from pursuing the path of barbarism they have marked out for themselves; to bring to the knowledge of the Tsar laments that, for humanity's sake if for no other, the Englishman trusts can never have reached that angust ere before.

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PARNELL'S DEFEAT.

After considerable controversy and delay Parnell has at last been compelled by the Irish people to take passage on the Saline Creek. His test candidate in the Carlow district has been defeated and Parnell's leadership of the Irish cause is at last at an end. The cause assigned for his deposition, to the fair and fearless mind, should be inadequate. Parnell must go because he happened to violate that eleventh commandment: "Thou shalt not be found out." As a political leader this man is probably neither better nor worse than others of the day who presume to be spokesmen for the people. The unfortunate social affair which has been the means of his dethronement is only one of the many similar escapades participated in by public men with the exception that this one has happened to see the light; a para-saical public therefore decreed that the participants in the same must be ignored.

One might think that Parnell would not have been shallow enough to suppose that a legal union with his paramour would subdue the feeling engendered against him by people who are, doubtless, not one whit better than the man they down. And if anything else were needed to demonstrate the hypocrisy of the "Grand Old Man"—whom it would be more fitting, in the light of his political craft, to designate as the "Grand Old Humbug"—we have the missing link of evidence in his perfidious desertion of this deposed Irish chieftain. Gladstone knows that Parnell's morality is as good as that of the majority of his political colleagues and it is therefore a confession of a lack of moral courage on the part of the superannated tree-chopper of Hawarden to leave him in the lurch in the present emergency.

There is something else involved in this case which is quite interesting. Parnell is a protestant, and Jesuitism, in his recent short comings, perceived the longed-for pretext for urging his retirement. Which is preferable for the good of Ireland, Parnell-rule or the rule of Rome? Of two evils choose the least, is an old maxim; Ireland after two or three centuries of Catholic domination should be convinced that Parnell with even the O'Shea appendage is more desirable. Poor Ireland! Disintegrated by the constant contention of her own people, preyed upon by English land-lordism and blinded by the scales of an accursed ecclesiasticism; the hour of her redemption is still far off. Parnell as a political leader merits as much confidence as any of his contemporaries in similar stations, which should be none. Public place, these days, is sought and retained for purely selfish ends, but the honest, outspoken man, viewing the general moral tone of society, turns with disgust from such a weak allegation for its overthrow of this political trickster.

HOW IT WORKS.

A Comparison of "Protection" and "Free Trade" Side by Side.

A correspondent of the London *Times* of the 13th gives some interesting figures respecting the growth of the population and commerce of Victoria and New South Wales, says the *Philadelphia Record*; the former a protectionist and the latter a free trade colony. In the five years 1885-9 the population of Victoria has increased from 951,276 to 1,118,028, while the population of New South Wales has risen from 921,268 to 1,222,200. During the same period the Victorian imports have increased from £19,201,633 to £24,402,760 and their exports have decreased from £16,050,465 to £12,734,734. In New South Wales, on the contrary, the imports have decreased from £22,826,985, to £22,546,244, while the exports have increased from £18,251,506, to £23,254,151. So that within the past five years Victoria has increased its population by a little over 16 per cent, while New South Wales has added no less than 32 per cent. The import figures are even more startling, for while Victoria shows an increase the imports of New South Wales are slightly less than they were five years ago, although the population is nearly a third greater. And what will the protectionist say to the exports? The protectionist colony exports considerably more than she used to do, while the free-trader exports considerably more. Per head of population, Victoria last year imported over £21 and exported over £11. At the same time New South Wales imported over £18 and exported over £19.

Farmers Swindled.

"There is every evidence of a ruction in the ranks of the Farmers' Alliance in Southern Minnesota," reports the *Chronicle*, "owing, it is alleged, to the perpetration of an outrageous swindle by several of its leaders. For a year or two members have been furnished through the Alliance with farming implements, binding twine, etc., at a supposed reduction in price. The greatest saving was to be effected on binding twine." It is true that twine had been supplied at a big reduction, but an investigation made by a suspicious Alliance man has developed a startling and most barefaced swindle. The Alliance traders had bought a cheap article of sisal twine and had it colored the color of pure Manila, the best twine in market. The twine thus colored was branded Manila and sold for that article, giving the seller a very large margin. It is stated that \$15,000 has been made out of the swindle thus worked upon the unsuspecting purchaser. The farmers are very indignant and there is a probability that the whole fabric of the Alliance will succumb in the storm that has been raised."

This may or may not have been written in the interest of the money power but, whether it be true or not it is a fair illustration of the way things will finally be manipulated by the men intrusted to the conduct of the affairs of the Alliance. The methods of demagoguery and chicanery will convince the farmers that this new fangled organization and its associate, the "Peoples' Party" with its two per cent government loans do not contain the panacea to cure their ills any more than do the two old parties. They will have to look further yet for an equitable, safe and comprehensive solution of wrongs whose magnitude and power surpass the ability or desire of the present governmental system to rectify. The former things must pass away and all things be made new.

The editor of *Liberty* wants to know whether we are "prepared to justify Prohibition by the novel argument implied in the expression slow poison to the tinkling of cut glass decanters, used in reference to liquor-dealers' business." Most assuredly. We are prepared to show, by the deliverances of science, that "alcohol is an irritant poison." We are prepared to show, by common observation, that people are induced, by all manner of excitements, to drink that irritant poison, most of them being ignorant of the fact that it is poison. We are prepared to show, by the investigations of the British Medical Society, that that poison kills 30,000 persons every year in England and Wales and by a fair inference, an equal number in this country.—*The Voice*.

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PARNELL'S DEFEAT.

After considerable controversy and delay Parnell has at last been compelled by the Irish people to take passage on the Saline Creek. His test candidate in the Carlow district has been defeated and Parnell's leadership of the Irish cause is at last at an end. The cause assigned for his deposition, to the fair and fearless mind, should be inadequate. Parnell must go because he happened to violate that eleventh commandment: "Thou shalt not be found out." As a political leader this man is probably neither better nor worse than others of the day who presume to be spokesmen for the people. The unfortunate social affair which has been the means of his dethronement is only one of the many similar escapades participated in by public men with the exception that this one has happened to see the light; a para-saxical public therefore decreed that the participants in the same must be ignored.

One might think that Parnell would not have been shallow enough to suppose that a legal union with his paramour would subdue the feeling engendered against him by people who are, doubtless, not one whit better than the man they down. And if anything else were needed to demonstrate the hypocrisy of the "Grand Old Man,"—whom it would be more fitting, in the light of his political craft, to designate as the "Grand Old Humbug"—we have the missing link of evidence in his perfidious desertion of this deposed Irish chieftain. Gladstone knows that Parnell's morality is as good as that of the majority of his political colleagues and it is therefore a confession of a lack of moral courage on the part of the superannuated tree-chopper of Hawarden to leave him in the lurch in the present emergency.

There is something else involved in this case which is quite interesting. Parnell is a protestant, and Jesuitism, in his recent short comings, perceived the longed-for pretext for urging his retirement. Which is preferable for the good of Ireland, Parnell-rule or the rule of Rome? Of two evils choose the least, is an old maxim; Ireland after two or three centuries of Catholic domination should be convinced that Parnell with even the O'Shea appendage is more desirable. Poor Ireland! Disintegrated by the constant contention of her own people, preyed upon by English land-lordism and blinded by the scales of an accursed ecclesiasticism; the hour of her redemption is still far off. Parnell as a political leader merits as much confidence as any of his contemporaries in similar stations, which should be none. Public place, these days, is sought and retained for purely selfish ends, but the honest, outspoken man, viewing the general moral tone of society, turns with disgust from such a weak allegation for its overthrow of this political trickster.

HOW IT WORKS.

A Comparison of "Protection" and "Free Trade" Side by Side.

A correspondent of the London *Times* of the 13th gives some interesting figures respecting the growth of the population and commerce of Victoria and New South Wales, says the *Philadelphia Record*; the former a protectionist and the latter a free trade colony. In the five years 1885-9 the population of Victoria has increased from 951,276 to 1,118,028, while the population of New South Wales has risen from 921,268 to 1,322,200. During the same period the Victorian imports have increased from £19,201,633 to £24,402,760 and their exports have decreased from £16,050,465 to £12,734,734. In New South Wales, on the contrary, the imports have decreased from £22,826,985, to £22,546,244, while the exports have increased from £18,251,506, to £23,254,151. So that within the past five years Victoria has increased its population by a little over 16 per cent, while New South Wales has added no less than 32 per cent. The import figures are even more startling, for while Victoria shows an increase the imports of New South Wales are slightly less than they were five years ago, although the population is nearly a third greater. And what will the protectionist say to the exports? The protectionist colony exports considerably less than she used to do, while the free-trader exports considerably more. Per head of population, Victoria last year imported over £21 and exported over £11. At the same time New South Wales imported over £18 and exported over £19.

Farmers Swindled.

"There is every evidence of a ruction in the ranks of the Farmers' Alliance in Southern Minnesota," reports the *Chronicle*, "owing, it is alleged, to the perpetration of an outrageous swindle by several of its leaders. For a year or two members have been furnished through the Alliance with farming implements, binding twine, etc., at a supposed reduction in price. The greatest saving was to be effected on binding twine. It is true that twine had been supplied at a big reduction, but an investigation made by a suspicious Alliance man has developed a startling and most barefaced swindle. The Alliance traders had bought a cheap article of sisal twine and had it colored the color of pure Manila, the best twine in market. The twine thus colored was branded Manila and sold for that article, giving the seller a very large margin. It is stated that \$15,000 has been made out of the swindle thus worked upon the unsuspecting purchaser. The farmers are very indignant and there is a probability that the whole fabric of the Alliance will succumb in the storm that has been raised."

This may or may not have been written in the interest of the money power but, whether it be true or not it is a fair illustration of the way things will finally be manipulated by the men intrusted to the conduct of the affairs of the Alliance. The methods of demagoguery and chicanery will convince the farmers that this new fangled organization and its associate, the "Peoples' Party" with its two per cent government loans do not contain the panacea to cure their ills any more than do the two old parties. They will have to look further yet for an equitable, safe and comprehensive solution of wrongs whose magnitude and power surpass the ability or desire of the present governmental system to rectify. The former things must pass away and all things be made new.

The editor of *Liberty* wants to know whether we are "prepared to justify Prohibition by the novel argument implied in the expression slow poison to the tinkling of cut glass decanters, used in reference to liquor-dealers' business." Most assuredly. We are prepared to show, by the deliverances of science, that "alcohol is an irritant poison." We are prepared to show, by common observation, that people are induced, by all manner of excitements, to drink that irritant poison, most of them being ignorant of the fact that it is poison. We are prepared to show, by the investigations of the British Medical Society, that that poison kills 30,000 persons every year in England and Wales and by a fair inference, an equal number in this country.—*The Voice*.

PRUNINGS.

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Society has a way of avenging itself for the wrongs committed on the lowest of all its members. Sir Robert Peel gave his daughter a magnificent riding habit on her nineteenth birthday, and, attired in the embroidered gown, she rode side by side with him in the parks of London. She had scarcely returned home before she was taken ill with the most malignant form of typhus fever, and in ten days was laid to rest in the churchyard. And the secret was a very simple one. The poor seamstress, in a garret in one of the slums, while she was embroidering that garment, looked upon a husband shivering in the paroxysm of chills, and she took the half finished garment and laid it over him, and the garment took up the germs of fever and conveyed them from the hovel of the poorest to the palace of the statesman. And so we are bound together in one bundle of social life, and if we neglect the poorest and the lowest, society will avenge herself in the destruction of the highest and the richest and most cultivated.—*Our Dumb Animals*.

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